



BRUCE D. DART, MS
Health Director

The Health Department measures the status and determinants of the population's health and reports the information to decision makers and the general public. Our annual report is published each year in January with statistics and program highlights from each division. The Department remains committed to our mission of serving the public as we respond to emerging public health issues.

The staff are committed to improving community health and at the same time we strive to measure the effect of our efforts. We are pleased that since the first Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 1991 we have over 50% reduction in our local youth smoking rates. In November, the voters passed a 100% smoke-free public workplace ordinance. Public health nurses, health outreach workers and registered dietitians provided service and education to pregnant women which resulted in a decrease in the number of low birth weight babies. Community wide efforts to promote and encourage breast feeding resulted in healthier babies with fewer health complications.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department recognizes the need for a responsive and cost-effective public health system. The Department accomplishes this by:

- involving community stakeholders in health planning and programs
- strengthening and integrating health information systems
- developing and strengthening capacity to provide core public health functions at the local level
- communicating public health messages and expectations to all populations
- providing decision-makers with timely information from which to make decisions to improve community health status
- building support for local public health through a strong presence at the state and national level.

These are only a few of the many public health success stories in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Though we have much work to do, we will continue promoting and protecting public health for all individuals in Lancaster County. I encourage you to read our annual report and visit our website at www.lincoln.ne.gov.



COLLEEN J. SENG
Mayor



ED SCHNEIDER, OD
Board President



Mission Statement

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department provides leadership in promoting environmental and personal health through health promotion, disease detection, disease prevention, education and regulation. In cooperation with community resources, the Department as the official agency is responsible for assisting the community and the citizens to assume responsibility for their health and the health of the community.

2004 BOARD OF HEALTH about the board of health

In 1873, a City Council ordinance created the Board of Health. In 1886, the City Council approved an appropriation for the Health Department. The Department was created as an official City/County entity by interlocal agreement in 1947. The Mayor appoints the Health Director, with confirmation by the City Council, County Board and Board of Health. The Board of Health consists of one physician, one dentist, one City Council member, one County Board member and five public-spirited members appointed by the City Council and County Board.



RODRIGO CANTARERO, PhD



CATHERINE ALLEY, DDS



TONY MESSINEO



LISA PETERSON, MD



LARRY HUDKINS
County Commissioner
Vice President



DEBRA HUMPHREY



HENA ROY, MD



KEN SVOBODA
City Councilman

Board of Health Strategic Goals and Priorities for 2005

The Board of Health and Department staff worked with over 100 community stakeholders to define 17 strategic goals for the future. The four priority goals for 2005 include:

- Diminish chronic disease complications by increasing access to care and early intervention.
- Sustain and improve air, land and water quality.
- Identify and eliminate barriers to health care and health disparities in a culturally competent manner.
- Sustain and improve systems to identify and track existing and emerging health issues.